BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N.Y. ALGONQUIN 5-5000

The New Alaska Motor Vessel
The Anna Jackman

More than 150 Florida Presbyterians attended dedication ceremonies March 16 of the new motorship, the Anna Jackman, for the Church's mission in southeast Alaska. Too many to crowd aboard the 64' 11" steel-hulled vessel, the representatives of Presbyterian U.S. churches in Jacksonville and of U.S.A. churches in Jacksonville and St. Augustine participated in proceedings from the ship's temporary dock in Florida. Speakers used the ship's bow for their rostrum.

Participating in the ceremonies were two members of the Board of National Missions: Dr. Herman L. Turner, the Pastor of the Atlanta, Georgia Covenant Presbyterian Church, who made the dedicatory address, and Mrs. John Hastie Brownof Syracuse, New York who christened the ship with a mixture of sea water from the Inside Passage of the Pacific and from meltings of the Mendenhall Glacier.

Also taking part were Dr. J. Earl Jackman, National Missions Secretary for Work in Alaska, and his wife, for whom the ship was named; Mr. Glen V. Carson, National Missions Properties Secretary who supervised construction of the ship; the Rev. Dr. W. Howard Lee, Pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in St. Augustine,who represented the Synod,as well as his congregation which provided some of the bedding and linens for the ship; the Rev. Garry Demarest, one of five Presbyterian U.S. pastors who attended; the ship's skpper, Elder Richard V. Nelson, and representatives of her builders and the architect who designed her. Following the dedication service, visitors inspected the ship.

Built in Jacksonville, Florida, the all-steel twin-engined ship will be on full-time sea duty in the island-studded waterways of southeast Alaska. Dubbed a floating church, she will carry a pastor and the services of the church to families who live in isolated logging camps, fishing villages, and remote communication and observation outposts. "Our job," says her skipper, Richard V. Nelson of Juneau, "is to get a preacher to the people."

The motorship has a 75-passenger capacity during daylight voyages, and she can sleep 28. During the summer months, she will ferry volunteer teachers to out-of-the-way villages for week-long Bible schools and carry young people to and from church sponsored camps. In spring and fall, she will be a water-bus to school and to a children's home the Board of National Missions maintains at Haines. She is an all-weather, all-year transport to meetings and training schools for ministers and church workers.

Taking the Anna Jackman on her first voyage is her captain, Dick Nelson, a Presbyterian elder who has skippered mission boats for many years. His wife, Deen, is the cook for the Anna Jackman's estimated six-week maiden voyage.

Also aboard for the ship's Florida-to-Alaska run is the Rev. Richard Stussi, who has sailed the ship's predecessor, the Princeton-Hall, as combined crewman and missionary, and Mrs. Stussi. Mr. Stussi is permanent minister-on-board of the mission motorship.

Volunteer seamen from three communities typical of those the Anna Jackman will reach in her permanent mission circuit complete the crew for the ship's first voyage. Henry Fawcett, a Tsimpshean Indian born in Metlakatla, is a candidate for the ministry who now lives in Spokane, Washington. Sam Douglas, Jr., is a Haida Indian from Hydaburg; Sam Jackson is a Thlinget from Kake. All three men are graduates of Sheldon Jackson Junior College, a 150-student mission school in Sitka.

Designed by Edwin Monk of Seattle and built by J.F.Bellinger and Son of Jacksonville Beach, Florida, the Anna Jackman cost $85,000. The engines, radar equipment, depth finder, radio telephone, and other gear were gifts of Presbyterian churches and individuals. The ship cruises at 10 knots an hour and has a 12 knot potential.

The ship bears the name of Mrs. Anna Jackman, wife of Dr. J. Earl Jackman, who since late 1943 has headed up the denomination's church program in the Far North. In addition to its motorships, the school in Sitka, and the home in Haines, the Board of National Missions sponsors in Alaska radio station KSEW in Sitka, a Hospitality House in Fairbanks, a mobile missionary along the Alaska Highway, an air ministry at Barrow on the Arctic, and 28 churches and 103 outpost missions.

After a brief stopover in Miami, where Presbyterians will present two ship's tenders, the Anna Jackman will sail east of Cuba and across the Caribbean to the Panama Canal. She is expected to make stop-overs in California, Oregon, and Washington where local churches have planned programs to welcome her to the Church's task force in Alaska.

Dept. of Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions

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OUTREACH AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1958

Sailing into His Service: The Anna Jackman

Joyce Clarke

THE SHIP was destined for Alaskan waters, but on March 16, 1958, new and white, she lay sparkling in the sunshine of Jacksonville, Florida, where she was built. On this day over 150 people, including members of the U.S. and U.S.A. Presbyterian Churches, and representatives of the Board of National Missions, assembled for the dedication ceremonies of the long needed replacement of the *Princeton-Hall*. Too large a crowd to board the vessel for the services, those present gathered on the temporary dock facing the ship's bow — the speakers' rostrum.

The Rev. J. Earl Jackman, D.D., secretary of the Department of Work in Alaska, presided over the ceremonies. After the call to worship, voices mingled in the hymn, "O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Fulfilling" . . . Here was fulfilment, indeed! The people of southeastern Alaska would continue to receive the ministry of the Presbyterian Church through the voyages of this new ship, successor to the *Lindsley*, the *Lois*, the *Princeton*, and the *Princeton-Hall*.

After prayer by the Rev. W. Howard Lee, D.D., minister of Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine, Florida, short talks were given by several of those present. Among them were the builder and the architect of this sturdy and beautiful ship. On the raised forward deck stands the pilot house, connected with which is the cabin, designed to give maximum space for worship services as well as for dining. Two dormitories accommodate twenty-eight people on overnight runs; seventy-five can be carried in the daytime.

Preceding the hymn, "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me," the ship's skipper, Mr. Richard V. Nelson, spoke. A Presbyterian elder, who has captained mission boats for a number of years, Mr. Nelson will take the new ship on her visits to isolated families, canneries, lumber camps, and wherever there are people

The Anna Jackman *continues the service of Presbyterian mission boats to the people of S.E. Alaska*

See also picture on the cover. Dr. Jackman standing. Mrs. Brown (left), and Mrs. Jackman, seated. Skipper Nelson at extreme left

who need to "know of the concern of God and his Church." Among her many services, the ship will transport patients to hospitals, children to Haines House, students to Sheldon Jackson Junior College and young people to summer camp. It will also carry missionaries from field to field and delegates to presbytery and presbyterial meetings. Services will be held aboard the boat, which will also be the mobile chapel for gospel teams and vacation Bible schools.

"Our job," Mr. Nelson said, "is to get a preacher to the people." This missionary preacher, the Rev. Richard Stussi, who sailed the old Princeton-Hall as missionary and crewman, was present at the ceremonies with his wife and family.

The address was given by the Rev. Herman L. Turner, D.D., minister of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia, and member of the Board of National Missions. Then Mr. Glen Carson, secretary of Property, Board of National Missions, presented the keys to Dr. Jackman who offered the prayer of dedication. Knowing that the sailing of this ship would bless and enrich countless individual lives for many years to come, all felt deeply the significance of this occasion.

Then Mrs. John Hastie Brown, vice-president of the Board of National Missions, stepped forward to name the new vessel. Using water taken from the Pacific Ocean (in the Inside Passage) mingled with melted ice from the Mendenhall Glacier, Mrs. Brown christened the boat the *Anna Jackman*. Though many suggestions for the new ship's name had been made, the Board voted in February of this year to name her in honor of Dr. Jackman's wife, who was also present.

Following the benediction the visitors streamed aboard for a first hand acquaintance with this new boat, made possible by countless loving gifts. Many individuals, organizations, churches, church schools, women's associations, and Westminster fellowships had participated. A generous sum had been provided by the Board of National Missions from the priority funds of the general benevolence giving of the Church to make up the total cost of $85,000. A large gift came from the Cummins Engine Company, Inc. of Columbus, Indiana, which provided the engines and reduction gears. Other gifts included radar equipment, depth finder, and radio telephone. Dr. Lee's congregation in St. Augustine provided some of the bedding and linens.

Calling at Miami on her maiden voyage, the *Anna Jackman* received two tenders, the gift of Presbyterians there. Then, sailing east of Cuba and across the Caribbean, she headed for the Panama Canal, bearing Mr. and Mrs. Stussi and their family to their mission work. Skipper Nelson's wife, Deen, acted as cook for the six-week trip. The ship's crew on this first voyage, all graduates of Sheldon Jackson Junior College, were volunteer seamen from three villages, typical of the communities the *Anna Jackman* will reach on her mission circuit. Sam Jackson is a Thlinget from Kake; Sam Douglas, Jr., a Haida from Hydaburg; and Henry Fawcett, a Tsimpshean born in Metlakatla. Now living in Spokane, Washington, Mr. Fawcett is a candidate for the ministry.

With a coastguard navigator from Alaska to pilot the vessel up the Pacific coast, the *Anna Jackman* made calls at Newport Beach, and San Francisco, California; Astoria, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington. Presbyterians, many bearing gifts, welcomed the ship at each port. In California and Washington further dedication ceremonies took place. The trip was rough. "We rocked and rolled," a member of the party reported. To the disappointment of all, delays prevented several other calls in coastal areas where welcomes had been planned.

By the time the summer draws to a close, the *Anna Jackman* will have sailed on many a voyage "In His Service." Through the years to come, she will continue her blessed task of carrying "people who have it in their hearts to share the Gospel of Christ with others." Those present at the dedication prayed that God might use this ship "as an instrument in his power to accomplish his will among the people whom she will serve." Through the devoted service of her minister, captain, and crew, this work will indeed be done.